3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG

Agriculture

000 UNTIL the last two decades Albania has had little time to devote herself to agricultural pursuits. She was too busy defending her land from the foreign invaders. The Turks had a saying: "To the Armenians, the pen, to the Albanians, the sword." This is not true any longer. With the people completely happy and content under the beneficial rule of King Zog I, they have turned their backs upon the sword or beaten it into the plough. They have settled down to developing their homeland.

654 243 The fertile plains and hillsides of Albania are devoted solely to farming, thus making the country almost essentially agricultural. Since the land is the main source of livelihood for the majority of the people, it is one of the chief aims of the government to care for the prosperity of the farmers. For this purpose the government has undertaken a project of model farms to demonstrate methods which may be of assistance and instruction to the natives. The best example of this is maize,

AGRICULTURE

Almost three-fourths of the cultivated soil of Albania is devoted to raising maize of the white and yellow variety, very much similar to the German maize grown in the vicinity of Baden. As there are such tremendously large quantities of this food material, the model farms are doing their best to accustom the farmer to the use of maize as feed for cattle to substitute it for grain for direct consumption. This is efficiently demonstrated by trial efforts to fatten different types of cattle and the experiment has met with success. The government is also conducting considerable propaganda work in various agricultural fields through these model farms. A considerable portion of this crop is exported.

The next in importance to maize is wheat, the growth of which has been bettered and greatly increased under governmental direction. This grain is grown largely in the south where the dry soil and intermittent rains are more suitable for its growth. The government imported several thousands of pounds of wheat of the Montana variety and distributed it to be used for sowing purposes; this has brought about excellent results. This importation was necessary because of the de-

654 sirability to improve the quality and the
243 quantity of the domestic crop in order to be able to export wheat into the eastern neighboring country, Greece, and elsewhere.

243 Besides maize and wheat, there are numerous other grainfruits grown in rather equally large proportions. Rye is to be found in the mountainous regions of the east and northeast; oats and barley are grown in almost all sections of the country.

It is also to be noted with interest the rapid growth in the production of rice in Albania. This particular industry thrives in the districts of Elbasan and Berat. Here are many
[312] rice plantations and improvements in the irrigation system which has been rather antiquated to a certain extent, and since such a great supply of water is necessary, there have been great strides made in bettering the method of agriculture which will, without doubt, greatly enhance the production of rice.

248 Hemp is also raised successfully.

Flax and cotton are also cultivated and the crops show a steady increase.

245 Following in importance to the stabilizing grainfruits, the growth of olives holds a position of note. Albania possesses about 1,500,-

4: Garnett B-4, 5 (ca. 1880) 1891
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fashion, a well-scoured copper pan to mix the meal in, a wooden bowl or two, a few horn spoons, a copper *ibrik*, or coffee pot, and a brass lamp. One of the two rooms is used as a storehouse for the maize or grapes, which are spread out and sprinkled with salt in order to preserve them. The other serves as general living and sleeping apartment, where the fire is made on the floor, the smoke escaping through a hole in the roof. Each house has its garden well stocked with fruit and vegetables, and its tobacco plot, surrounded by a high loopholed wall. Each village has, too, its green, in one corner of which is the paved threshing-floor, where the grain is trodden out by horses.

The physical appearance of the women of Albania varies according to the district they inhabit, the tribe to which they belong, and the conditions under which they live. The Skipetars of the Drin and the Gheg and Miridite women of North Albania generally are tall, handsome, and well-made, having good complexions and not infrequently fair hair, which, as the following verse from one of their folk-songs shows, is much admired:—

O maiden so tender,
No pipe of Vizier
Was ever so slender
As thou art, my dear!
The soft silken tresses
Of thy yellow hair,
The glad breeze caresses,
Like flax threads are fair.

They are also dignified in demeanour, capable of undergoing fatigue and hardship, and exceedingly courageous.

7: Amery G-5 (1943-44) 1948 EG1 Albania EG1

comed Turkish protection against the Slavs and Greeks who threatened them on every side. It resulted rather from the jealousies of the Powers; and it was their representatives who determined the territories of the new state with such singular disregard for economic and ethnological considerations that they left as many Albanians outside the boundaries of Albania as within them.

The total number of Albanians has been generally computed at some two millions. Of these, upwards of one million lived within the frontiers which were proposed by the Ambassadors' Conference in 1913, ratified in 1926, and once more restored in 1945. Of the remainder, more than six hundred thousand inhabited the Kossovo, while the others were scattered in Montenegro, Macedonia, and Epirus. The amputation of the Kossovo was a heavy loss to the new state; for the region was the natural granary of the northern provinces, and the standard of living of the Ghegs rose or fell according as they were allowed or denied free access to it.

The economic and social structure of the Ghegs, or Northern Albanians, was one of tribal anarchy, save in the coastal plain and the Kossovo, where there were feudal estates. Islam and Roman Catholicism were the accepted religions: the Moslems inhabiting Central and North-eastern Albania with the Kossovo, the Catholics Mirdita and the inaccessible ranges of the north-west. A way of life near to the tribal system of the Ghegs still survived in the mountains of Southern Albania, but the Tosk tribes had never wholly recovered from the repressions of Ali the Lion and had increasingly disintegrated into communities of landowning peasants. The broad plains of the South, however, remained divided into feudal estates, owned by an Ottomanised ruling class and worked in part by an Orthodox Christian peasantry. Thus, while the distinction between Moslems and Catholics was one of geography and history, the Catholics being those Albanians whom the Turks had never subdued, that between Moslems and Orthodox was one rather of class and of cash.

It was scarcely to be expected that a conference of ambassadors would quickly set up a strong state among a people divided